

Consideration of the dedication of the Black Rock Nature Preserve in Warren County

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 32.024 acre property that is along the eastern border of Warren County, approximately 4.5 miles east of the town of Independence. This nature preserve protects examples of high quality natural communities that include open oak woodlands, sandstone barrens, sandstone bedrock exposures and sandstone cliff communities. It is located within the Entrenched Valley Section of the Central Till Plain Natural Region.

This Nature Preserve consists of topography that is characterized by the Black Rock geologic feature, a sandstone promontory that soars to one hundred and ten feet above the Wabash River. This highly unusual landform anomaly with steep-sided shale ravines, sandstone cliffs, and seep springs provide varied and uncommon habitats. The rocky slopes and shallow acid soils are habitat for a stunted black oak barrens community supporting a State Threatened plant, *Selaginella rupestris* – Ledge Spikemoss and a State Rare plant, *Napaea dioica* – Glade mallow and. This barrens community type composed of Mississippian (Borden Formation) sandstone/siltstone/shale is the best and largest example and occurs in only two areas of the state: The Knobstone Escarpment in south-central Indiana and in northwestern Indiana along and near the Wabash River.

This Nature Preserve has a long cultural history in the area. In 1811, Tecumseh's warriors were stationed here to await General Harrison's troops before the Battle of Tippecanoe. In 1838, the Potawatomi Trail of Death camped near this location. During the canal era, settlers fished and provided lumber for shipping along the Wabash and Erie Canal on the opposite side of the river. The 20th century attracted merrymakers for picnics, boating and dancing.

This tract is owned and managed by the NICHES Land Trust, Inc. Funding from the Indiana Heritage Trust assisted with its acquisition.

The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Nature Preserves Exhibit A.

Black Rock Nature Preserve

County: Warren
Size: 32.024 acres

NRC Exhibit A

USGS Quad Map: West Point
Ownership: NICHES Land Trust, Inc.



map created by R Wilson IDNR Nature Preserves 1.20.2015

0 0.1 0.2 Miles

